











The Baptist Kerurd

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# Convention Will Consider Big Budget, Clarke Study

Mississippi Baptist Convention President Bill Causey will call the 144th annual session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention to order at 9 a.m., Nov. 13, in the auditorium of Jackson's First Baptist Church.

This year's convention is set to include a vote on an \$11.2 million budget and a vote to consider a study on the future of Clarke College.

The budget is the amount of income estimated to come in to Cooperative Program causes from Mississippi Baptist churches. One third of that money will be sent out state to Southern Baptist causes the nation and around the world. The rest will fund missions and education programs within Mississippi, including the work of 15 state Baptist agencies. The Mississippi Baptist Education

(Continued on Page 4)

# Southwestern

Sets Campaign By Philip Poole

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) - Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary have approved a \$15 million campaign to finance a new library, a world missions/church growth center, a continuing education center and additional endowment.

The recommendation was among 12 objectives adopted by trustees at their fall meeting as part of the seminary's long-range plan for 1980-85. Seminary President Russell Dilday Jr. will present the capital campaign proposal to the Southern Baptist Executive Com-(Continued on Page 4)

High Attendance Day October 28, 1979 Had a Total Of 202,948 In Mississippi **Sunday Schools** 

Commission and the Clarke College Board of Trustees plan to jointly recommend to the Convention that a complete indepth study be made of "all possible alternatives concerning the future of Clarke College." The study will be recommended to be made by the Southern Baptist Educaton Commission.

Other convention business will include election of officers.

After the morning call to worship, 'Sound of Joy," from Foxworth Baptist Church will offer a message in

Then the convention will be organized with seating of messengers, and a report of the committee on order of business which is chaired by Graham Smith.

Jim Raymick of Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson, will lead the congregational praise for the session and Jerry Oswalt of William Carey College will give the "Bible Treasure" mes-

The choir of Parkway church will Causey, pastor of Parkway.

The Tuesday afternoon session will include music by a men's quartet from First Church, Yazoo City and by the choir of First Church, Clinton. Bill Bacon minister of music at First Church, Clinton, will lead congregational praise during the session.

Bobby Perry, pastor of First church, Moss Point, will give the "Bible Treasure" message and the convention sermon will be delivered by Bill Baker, pastor of First Church, Clinton.

John Newport of Southwestern Seminary will give a special presentation on the occult. And business matters to be considered will include presentation of resolutions and election of officers.

The Tuesday evening session includes music by Mrs. Charles Miles of First Church, Columbus, Donald Brown, minister of music, First Church, Hazlehurst, will lead the congregational music.

Roy Myers, pastor of Mt. Zion Church, Independence, will give the 'Bible Treasure' message, and Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board will lead the state convention

Immediately after the close of the Tuesday evening session, a reception will be held. The reception will honor all missionaries and all chaplains in Mississippi. It will take place in the Baptist Building across the street from the church and is open to all who attend the convention session

The Wednesday morning session will include adoption of the 1980 budget and reports of various committees. Mrs. Harvey Kelly of Highland

Church, Laurel, and the William Carey College Chorale will offer special music. Ken Forbus, minister of music at First Church, Greenville, will lead in congregational music.
Odean Puckett will give the "Bible Treasure" message and Wendell

Belew of the Home Mission Board will give the main address during that session.

Tom Hudson, pastor of Oak Forest Church, Jackson, will give the Wed-nesday afternoon session's "Bible Treasure" message and Charles Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Church, Birmingham, Ala., will give the afternoon sermon.

Tommy and Carol Sparkman of First Church, Terry, will offer a message in song and John Burke, minister of music at North Greenwood Church, will lead the congregational praise.

At 3:15 that afternoon, the mini-sessions will take place. These are four separate sessions which offer messengers a chance to hear more about individual programs and operations of the convention that is possible in regular convention sessions. A detailed outline of the mini-sessions' contents will be offered in next week's Baptist Record.

The Wednesday evening session includes a "Bible Treasure" message by James Travis of Blue Mountain College and special music by the Missis-

(Continued on Page 3)

# Home Board Urges Congress To Fund Survey On Hunger

ATLANTA (BP) — Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board have urged Congress to fund and implement a national survey on hunger.

A resolution, presented by Nell Bowen of Forsyth, Ga., was one of two actions on domestic hunger taken by directors at their fall meeting.

The other action urges the 13 million Southern Baptists in 35,400 churches across the nation to join the action by writing letters to senators and congressmen urging a survey to determine the extent, nature, numbers and location of hunger in the United States.

The resolution notes that other groups in the U.S. are also pressing for a national survey on domestic hunger. One such group is Bread for the World, a Christian citizens group, which has called for a national "offering of letters" to influence Congress to improve the nation's response to hunger at home. Bread for the World says some 25 million Americans are below the poverty line.

"The Home Mission Board is joining other groups in asking for the hunger survey," said William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the board. "The directors have gone on record in favor of urging Congress to

take action. 'We feel it is appropriate for the Home Mission Board to take the lead in this effort among Southern Baptists," added Mrs. Bowen. "The Home Mission Board is indeed a channel for administering funds and personnel to help relieve domestic hunger because we have the programs, people and caring concerns to do so.'

Mrs. Bowen said most Americans are aware of the problems of hunger abroad, but generally are unaware of the tragic nature of the problem in America. "There are hungry and undernourished people in the United States, but Americans generally are unaware of how extensive the problem is." she added. "We hope Southern Baptists will join in this effort. Hunger is very real in many homes in our na-

**Twin Resolutions** The twin resolutions were prepared by a committee on hunger appointed by Robert L. Deneen of Darlington, S. C., president of the Home Mission Board, and chaired by Mrs. Bowen. Members include Clifton Tennison of West Monroe, La.; Edna Shows of Atlanta, Ga.; Hazel Tew of Austin, Texas; and William L. Turner of Lexington, Ky. Board staffers assigned to the committee include Gerald Palmer, director of the missions section; James Nelson, director of the associational missions division; Wendell Belew, director of the missions ministries division; and Paul Adkins, director of the Christian social ministries department

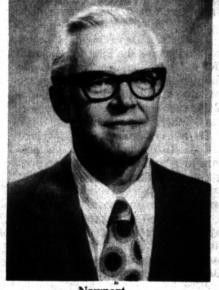
The resolution to be sent to Congress urges the national legislators to "fund and implement a national survey to discover the extent and nature of domestic hunger with the aim of developing remedial programs and

(Continued on Page 2)











# Christians Attempt A Perilous Escape

(With a hand compass and a one page map of the world, four people concealed by the night in a tiny fishing boat set sail across 800 miles of open waters seeking freedom.

It sounds like a plug for an adventure novel. But it's part of a true story of a Christian family who gambled their lives in a desperate bid to leave Communist-controlled Vietnam and find a new life.

The length of the story makes it necessary for the Baptist Record to print it in two parts: depicting the events leading up to the escape, and the escape and events afterward.)

By Tim Nicholas

Do Tan Minh knew nothing about fishing, but after the fall of Saigon into Communist hands in April of 1975, Minh knew that the sea was the only way out for him and his wife and baby.

Minh had been a petty officer in the South Vietnamese Navy and after the U.S. evacuation, was forced to spend six months in a re-education camp in the mountains. There he was taught the value of Communism and the folly of religion. "They encouraged us not to believe in God or Jesus Christ," said Minh. "Only believe in Ho Chi Minh," he was told.

But it was too late for Minh, now 27. Because he had already become a Christian, albeit a secret one. Minh was the eldest son of a family

that followed ancestor worship. A combination of Buddhism and Confucianism, the religion basically venerates the dead, "to receive peace in life and to avoid punishment after death," according to Minh. As eldest son, he was expected to replace his father eventually in veneration of the

During Minh's high school and Navy years he was exposed to something else — the story of Jesus Christ. He mades friends with some Christians and visited Vietnamese churches. He even studied through a correspondence Bible course. "After studying these lessons, I began to understand about my sins, the love of God, forgiveness, and salvation," said Minh. "I was especially happy because my wife (Ai Hang) agreed to study with me. We were truly seeking to know

Before the fall of Vietnam, the couple kept their Christianity secret from the family. After the fall, they had to reinforce their secrecy because of the athiestic nature of the Communist government.

After the hard labor and intense brainwashing of the re-education camp, Minh was declared to be reeducated and sent home. He made it home for the birth of their daughter Ai Van. Five days in labor and with no medicines, made Ai Hang very sick, but the baby was healthy. Ai Hang

(Continued on Page 3)

# MBS May Be Assessed For Veterans' Benefits

By Tim Nicholas Mississippi Baptist Seminary may be held liable for \$1.5 million which the Veteran's Administration claims it is owed for overpayment of veterans' benefits.

The Mississippi Baptist Seminary is jointly administered by National Baptists and the Mississippi Baptist Convention which elect trustees. Dick Brogan became president in 1978.

The Baptist Record reported two years ago that the VA was assessing former students for overpayments.

In the intervening two years, according to Bill Bryant, veteran services officer for the regional VA office in Jackson, a moratorium on collect-

ing from schools has been in effect. Recently courts have decided that the VA does have the authority to assess school liability," said Bryant.
"And in cases where schools are found liable, the schools will be made aware that the VA sees potential liability, then the VA and the school will go into

Bryant told the Baptist Record that the seminary has not at this time been found liable.

So far five former students have been sued for non-repayment. None of the cases have been resolved yet. As many as 467 students may have been over paid.

The problem occurred when the VA investigated the school after noticing that a large percentage of students were receiving veteran's benefits. A check of records indicated that many were not attending classes the minimum number of hours each week to qualify.

Brogan noted that withdrawal of approval for benefits was made before any audit was made

Brogan explained that all payments were made by the VA directly to the students and that the seminary only received nominal sums (approximately \$30 per semester) from each student. "We had a lot of veterans who a period of discussion and clarification never paid anything," said Brogan.

# Humorist Will Headline Rally

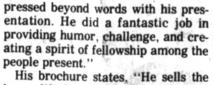
"The Rocking Chair Philosopher," Eddy Nicholson, will headline the banquet entertainment for the annual State Brotherhood Rally.

Parkway Baptist Church of Jackson is the host church for the Rally which will be held November 12, beginning with a banquet at 5:30 p.m. and followed by the conference in Parkway's new auditorium at 7:30.

According to those who have enjoyed Eddy Nicholson's performances, he comes on strong with a many faceted approach. One Mississippi pastor said of him, "I was im-



**David and Laura Prevost** 



happy life, laughter and the good side of bad times. And while he's getting you to laugh he's getting you to think. Nicholson does all his speeches dres-

sed in a pair of Big Mac overalls, shirt made out of Jim Dandy Hominy Grits material and hillbilly 'clod-hoppers'.'

David and Laura Prevost will balance out the banquet program with their own special musical renditions. This young Christian couple are both highly talented musicians — both are vocalists and guitarists. David has



**Eddy Nicholson** 

# Mississippi Teams In California "Seal A Mission Relationship"

By Don Hepburn

'They've often heard about missions, but for the first time in their lives they've left home to go to a place they had never been, to live with people for a week that they did not know, to do a job they'd never done

This is how Glen Schilling, director of missions for the Simpson Association in Mississippi described a unique mission project which helped bring the resources of his fellow Mississippi Baptists to the aid of several California Southern Baptist churches.

The mission project, which involved 150 Mississippi lay persons and pastors in a first-hand missions experience in nine California communities, concluded its second summer recently with promising results.

Begun in 1978, the program enlists work teams from Mississippi associations to go to California for a week each summer. According to Brotherhood Department director Paul Harrell, the project was adopted by Mississippi Baptist men as a Bold Mission Thrust project. The summer project is a joint venture of the Baptist Men of Mississippi and the Men's Ministries department of California Southern Bap-

The work teams helped Southern Baptist churches and missions construct and upgrade church buildings. In addition, the 1979 summer teams led in Vacation Bible Schools and participated in witnessing and church survey

"This concept," said California Men's Ministries director Edd Brown, is involvement of men and women in missions at home. It is our conviction that all of God's people are called to be his ministers."

The Mississippi Associations and their California project locations

- Pearl River Association at First Southern Baptist Church of San Luis Rev and the Bethel Baptist Church of Madera;

- Jackson Association at the Coronado Southern Baptist Church; -Simpson Association at the Emmanuel Baptist Church of Sasramento:
Jones Association at the Dorado Hills Bible Chanel

— Calhoun Association a
Southern Baptist Charge of Es

- Hinds-Madison Association at the Anza Southern Chapel; and the

Sierra Baptist Church of Alta. Each of the work team members raised his or her own funds to make the trip to California. In some associations, churches underwrote their pastor and laymen by providing the nearly \$400 in airfare expenses.

The work week usually began early Monday mornings. At the work site, the different teams found the church building in varying stages of construction. Generally, the local congregation had completed the foundation work.

Construction logistics were sometimes a "touch and go" matter. As one California pastor explained, "it was difficult having the church construction at the right stage for the Missis-

sippi work team." But he said, "you had not been completed the previous can do anything you have to do, if the Lord is in it."

The work teams, which varied in size from six to 23 members, were comprised of carpenters, electricians, plumbers, and in some instances, a contractor. For the others in the team who did not have a trade - including pastors, directors of missions and interested laymen - they provided much needed muscle.

For the women who were a part of the work teams, their contributions included such things as leading Vacation Bible Schools, to door-to-door surveys. to sanding down pews, to making pew

The Simpson Association work team is pictured setting truss beams in place at the



n Bibb (left) director of missions for the Calhoun Association, and Vernon Vinevard, pastor, First Southern Baptist - Lauderdale Association at the Church, Escalon, Calif.

The Mississippi teams would work under the hot California sun 10 and 12 hours a day. The work included raising walls, sheetrocking, framing roofs, installing electrical wiring and plumbing. And if that wasn't sufficient, many of the teams chose to spend their even-

"They thrilled our hearts with their work and blessed us with their presence in our homes and our church life," observed Paul Currie, pastor of the El Dorado Hills Bible Chapel. The El Dorado church was treated to two separate work teams from the Jones Association which helped construction a church building.

ings visiting prospects for the host

The Sierra church at Alta has benefited from the Mississippi work teams both summers. According to Leon Young, missions director for the Lauderdale Association, his workers were not satisfied that work at Alta tor.

summer.

"So they made a pledge among themselves that they would go back and help the congregation at Alta to bring it to the point where it (the church building) could be used, Young said. The second effort made the difference. "They held a worship service before they left," Young recalled, "and had about 60 people to attend. You can't imagine what that did for the group from Mississippi."

The work team from the Jackson Association did a great deal of interior finishing work at the Coronado Southern Baptist Church. But the real treat for the church came from the four women team members who had planned to make drapes. Instead the women ended up sanding down and refinishing the church's pews. Not satisfied, the women made cushions for the pews. "They did a marvelous job," said Jackson Association Brotherhood director, Walter Waltman.

Reflecting upon the week long experiences, Waltman observed, "It lifted my spirits and challenged me as a leader and director of Brotherhood and missions to do more work here in our home.

Commenting on his reason for participating in the summer mission project, Phillip Caples, pastor at Pleasant Hill. (Calhoun) Miss., said he believes in action. "I felt like the Lord teaches that if we are to make missions successful, simply giving money is not sufficient all the time. Sometimes actual hands are needed," he said. Caples was part of a 23 member team from the Calhoun Association which constructed the walls and roofing for the First church of Escalon.

"We went out there to build the building but we also went out there to witness," said Joel Ray, director of missions for Lebanon Association. His team built an educational building and fellowship hall for the Yreka Baptist Church. By being there, Ray said, "We believe it was a witness to the town of

Before the team from Hinds-Madison Association returned home, they helped place the steeple on top of the newly-built worship center. The steeple not only capped a week's work, but it sealed a mission relationship. "Their enthusiasm and love for the Lord was an encouragement to us all," remarked D. D. Brian, the Anza pas-



Rachael Sprayberry, a nursing student from Bruce, Ms., was one of many women who participated in the summer mission project. Here she works in a Vacation Bible

Why would anyone pay to go to a mission site to work 14-hour days, one may well ask. "It's just being able to give of myself," was a comment re-peated by many work team members including Charlotte Stewart. A member of First church, Bruce, Miss., Ms. Stewart said, "it is doing what I feel the Lord would have me to do."

As a result of the summer project, laypersons and pastors are reportedly gaining a new insight toward missions.

"It has opened the eyes of our people about needs in other parts of the world," commented the Lauderdale missions director Leon Young. He also reports some of his churches are giving more money than ever before to missions. "There is a genuine interest in doing mission work," because, he said, "missions is something that's very real."

(Don Hepburn is director of communications for The Southern Baptist General Convention of California.)



The finishing touch is completed as members of Hinds-Madison Association work team place the steeple on the roof of the Anza Southern Chapel

## Jeff Davis-Covington

## Bible Meet To Feature Causey, Robbins, Tsika

The joint county Baptist association, Jeff Davis and Covington, will hold its first associational Bible conference, Nov. 4, 5, and 6. Ray Henry, chairman of the Steering Committee for the conference, says it promises to be the spiritual highlight of the year for the association.

Speakers will include Bill Causey, pastor, Parkway, Jackson, and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention; Ray Robbins, professor of New Testament, New Orleans Seminary; and Paul Tsika, evangelist from Zachary, La.

Causey will teach the conference on prayer and faith; Robbins will speak on the Beatitudes; and Tsika's preaching messages will concern the victorious Christian life.

Randy Grim of Prentiss Church, will direct the music. Mrs. Myrna Loy Hedgepeth, Jackson, will sing.

The conference will begin at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 4, with churches from Jeff Davis County meeting at Prentiss Church to hear Evangelist Tsika and Mrs. Hedgepeth. The same night, churches in Covington County will meet at First Church, Collins, where Ray Robbins will preach and the choir of First Church will present special oper person. Boieum

Nov! sand 6, both counties will meet together at the associational building, ½ mile south (on highway 35) of the intersection of highways 84 and 35. Morning Bible study sessions Monday and Tuesday will begin at 9 and last until noon. Evening sessions will begin at 7, with two teaching sessions to choose from at the beginning, and afterward the preaching hour.

# Jackson Baptists, Catholics Dialogue

A dialogue between the members of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson, and St. Richard's Catholic Church. Jackson, was slated for Oct. 26-28.

On Saturday evening the pastor, David R. Grant, and the participating members of Broadmoor Church attended Saturday Mass at St. Richard's Catholic Church beginning at 5:30 p.m. This was followed by a Koffee Klatch in the Catholic church hall, giving both congregations an opportunity to meet each other.

A lecture was then given by C. Brownlow Hastings of the Inter-Faith Witness Department of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Hastings' topic was: "What it Means to be a Southern Baptist." A question period followed.

On Sunday evening the pastor, Patrick Ferrell, and participating members of St. Richard's Catholic Church attended the services at Broadmoor Baptist Church beginning at 7 p.m. A

Jackson, Miss. 39205

koffee klatch followed in the Fellowship Hall.

Joseph O'Donnell then gave a talk on: "What it Means to be a Roman Catholic." Father O'Donnell is the Field Representative in Southern Baptist-Roman Catholic relations for the Bishops' Committee on Ecumeni-

cal and Interreligious Affairs. Again, as on Saturday evening. there was a question period.

The purpose of this Weekend Dialogue, was that members of both churches might understand each other

Hastings has recently returned from a three-week visit to Vatican City where he attended the International Synod of Catholic Bishops.

Father O'Donnell is a frequent observer at the Executive Board Meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville. These two men have worked together in conducting many types of dialogues between these two denominations.

## Border To Open

# Baptists Aid Thai Refugees With Food, Medical Teams

By Martha Skelton
ARANYAPRATHET, Thailand (BP) - Special Baptist medical and food distribution teams in Thailand have joined overall efforts to treat the malnourished, homeless thousands of Cambodians now streaming across the eastern border of Thailand.

Assignment of the teams came 24 hours after a meeting held by Prime Minister Kriangsak Chamanan, Oct. 19. Ronald C. Hill, Southern Baptist missionary administrator of the Thailand Baptist Mission, was among international agency representatives invited to the meeting.

The Thai leader announced a change in his government's policy, declaring that all refugees arriving by land or sea will now be accepted into Thailand. He attended the change to the support for refugee work coming from the international community. Officials estimate the border opening could result in as many as 200,000 to 300.000 refugees entering in the weeks to

The specific responsibilities given to the Baptist Mission are three-fold, enrange medical care and food distribu- der in past weeks. However, 3,000 tons

tion: (1) An emergency medical team at the temporary refugee center on the Thai border: (2) A team to distribute food stuffs stocked along the border by the United Nations food organization, World Food Program; (3) A Baptist medical team from the U.S. to stay three to six months.

The emergency medical team, working out of Bangkla Baptist Hospital, provided the five-day emergency medical assistance requested, but they could not be spared long from a heavy schedule at Bangkla.

The Thailand Baptist Mission acted immediately to request a long-range medical team from the United States. The Thai government has announced plans to move the refugees (approximately 70,000 of them south of Aranyaprathet) inward about 30 miles to a more permanent holding center near the town of Sa Kaew, where Southern Baptist missionaries are already doing Thai work. The Baptist team from the States is expected to be assigned there.
The U. N. World Food Program

stockpiled 8,000 tons of food in 12 locacompassing immediate and long- tions along the Thai-Cambodian bor-

had been distributed by Thai soldiers in refugee areas before the prime minister's meeting, leaving 5,000 tons in need of distribution. They estimate the 5,000 tons will last one month. The Thai government wanted its soldiers freed from food distribution activities for security reasons.

(Ms. Skelton, editorial assistant of THE COMMISSION magazine, is on special assignment in Thailand.)

You're invited to a

## HMB Wants Hunger Survey (Continued from Page 1)

legislation to deal with this pressing

and life-and-death issue."

In the resolution to be communicated to churches and Southern Baptists, directors noted that an "inward change brought about by Jesus Christ is accompanied by an outward expression in life," and added that "ministering to the hungry among us at home is a responsibility of Christians."

#### **Before You Move** 1. Attach old mailing label in the space below or print

your old address, and account number. Date you plan to move \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Print your new address here. 3. Mail to: The Baptist Record Circulation Box 530

# 'Heart' Series Scheduled For Southern Seminary

The Heart of America Bible Confer- Russell Dilday, president of Southence in Louisville, Ky. will be Nov. 5-7 on the campus of Southern Seminary and at the Commonwealth Convention

The conference is designed to help pastors, church staff members and laymen revitalize their local churches through evangelism, according to the

The meeting will get underway Nov. 5 at 2 p.m. in the chapel of Southern Seminary. Evening sessions will be held each night at the convention

The conference will feature two seminary presidents, Duke McCall, president of Southern Seminary, and

western Seminary.

Also scheduled to speak are W. A.

Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, Tex.; James Robison, evangelist from Fort Worth, Tex.; Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., and president of the Southern Baptist Convention; and Jerry Vines, pastor of Dauphin Way Baptist Church in Mobile, Ala.

Other speakers include James T. Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Tex.; Homer Lindsay, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla.; and Paige Patterson, president of Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas.



(Continued from Page 1)

eventually recovered and when the family returned to his home village, Minh puzzled his family who wanted him to farm further inland with him. But he and Ai Hang had already de-cided that they needed to be near the

sea to plan for an escape.

"Because we had served the former government," said Minh, we had to work harder than others in order to prove to the Communist authorities that we had 'awakened'. And to meet the needs of our family we were working at two occupations, fishing and farming, for which we were completely untrained."

Though Ai Hang had had nursing training, she was forced into the role of "fisherwife" as people teasingly cal-led her. She sold Minh's meager catch, in trade for rice and other food.

Minh cultivated a slope of barren land near an uncle's house, terracing it to plant beans and other staples.

He noted the gradual breakdown of the economy as the Communists would take larger portions of the people's incomes and agricultural production, sending it into the Northern provinces. Private commerce was closed and many city folks had to move to "new economic zones" to farm.

"Any meetings were automatically suspect," said Minh, "especially meetings of Christians at churches. It was thought that the churches had had

(Continued from page 1)

been called to be minister of music at

First Baptist Church, Canton. Laura is

a native of Jackson and David is from

Paul Harrell, Mississippi

Brotherhood director says, "The

fellowship banquet continues to

be one of the delightful aspects of

the Brotherhood Rally. Baptist

Men from every corner of the

state journey to Jackson annually

for the Rally. The banquet hall at

Parkway Baptist Church can ac-

commodate approximately 800

will cost \$3.50 per person. Because tickets are issued by order of re-

quest, we urge our people to

purchase tickets early to be as-

sured a reservation for the ban-

"The last several years tickets

have sold out a week prior to the

banquet night. Please make your

request this week. To assure the

immediate return of your ticket, a

check or money order must ac-

company your request."

"The banquet meal this year

Hazlehurst.

a relationship with their enemies. . . We still did not dare to come to church, although we believed in God."

By the end of March, 1976, after listening secretly to a radio broadcast from Manila, Minh and Ai Hang heard a Voice of America broadcast that said a group of Vietnamese refugees had escaped by a fishing boat and were saved by a foreign merchant ship. Later, they heard that others had also

Though Minh had a few navigational skills, he had no large boat with a motor. So he decided to plot with four friends who had the same ideas about freedom as he.

They decided to try to get to the Philippines because it was nearer than other possibilities. They would gather fuel and food and try to steal a boat.

A furtive system of purchase and hiding of the gasoline was established over a three month period. Fear of exposure to the local police prevented the plotters from meeting for several weeks. Then, suspicious, Minh rowed to the fuel cache and discovered all 600 liters was gone.

"Did the authorities know our plan? Did our companions betray us? We could not find out the answers," recalled Minh. "It was as though we were in a deep pit of hopelessness.'

(To be continued in next week's Baptist Record)

Humorist Will Headline —

# Convention Will Consider Big Budget, Clarke Study

(Continued from Page 1)

sippi Singing Churchmen.

Jim Henry, pastor of First church, Orlando, Fla., will give the sermon that evening.

Final sessions of the convention, Thursday morning will include mes-sages by W. C. Fields, public relations director of the Southern Baptist Con-

vention, and John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor church, Shreveport, La. Dan Guest, minister of music at

"Know Him - Know Yourself" is

the theme of the annual Youth

Evangelism Conference to be held in

Jackson, Dec. 27-28 at Colonial Heights

The conference is planned for youths

Seminars include messages from

Donn Poole on personal development,

and from Randall Trull on establishing

a relationship to God and helping

another person establish that same re-

lationship to God. Poole is minister of youth at Spring Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala. Trull is pastor of Jackson's Briarwood Drive Baptist

Special sessions are set for professional and volunteer youth workers.

David Rodgers, minister of youth and family ministry for First Church. Greenville will discuss recreation and

activities. And Don Witzel, minister of

youth at Calvary Church, Jackson,

Another session for leaders will in-

Entertainment will be provided by

the Cruse Family from Jacksonville,

Tex., Kay DeKalb, who lives in

Nashville, and from David Meece.

The program begins with registra-

tion at 11 a.m., Thursday, Dec. 27, and

concludes at 8:30 p.m. the next even-

Motels are listed below.

from Lawton, Okla.

clude youth outreach through existing

will discuss promotional ideas.

from junior high age and up, and in-

cludes entertainment and seminars on

Baptist Church.

spiritual growth.

Church.

Bowmar Avenue church, Vicksburg, will lead the congregation praise. A Ladies' Ensemble from Alta Woods church, Jackson, and the Clarke Col-

ege Choir will give special music. Ed Gandy, pastor of First Church, Kosciusko, will give the session's "Bible Treasure" message.

Instrumentalists for the convention will be Eva Carol Hart and Becky Payne. The two are instrumentalists for First church, Jackson.

Youths Will Learn How To

"Know Him-Know Yourself"

## Congress Tries To Upset **IRS Ruling**

Washington (EP) - Efforts are being made in Congress to upset an Internal Revenue Service ruling that some senators fear has broken new ground in limiting the tax deductibility of donations to organizations that provide services. Proposed legislation would restrict the I.R.S. in challenging contributions to homes for the aged, handicapped or retarded, day care centers, and colleges, as well as parochial schools operated by religious organi-

## CLASSIFIED

Thursday, November 1, 1979

**BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3** 

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The conference will feature Gene Garrison, pastor of First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City. He has been pastor of churches in Texas and Oklahoma.

He was a member of the Home Mission Board, 1973-78, and was chairman of the Search Committee to recommend a new executive-director following the retirement of Dr. Arthur Rutledge. In 1973, Oklahoma Governor **David Boren appointed Gene Garrison** to be chairman of the State Ethics Committee for state government, a position he held for 4 years.

He is past president of the Evangelical Pastor's Conference of Oklahoma City and has served two terms as a member of the Board of Directors for the Baptist Medical Center.

Jim Raymick, minister of music, Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson, will direct the music for the conference. Raymick has been featured as a soloist for camps, conventions, colleges, high schools and churches in several Southern states. His repertoire includes hymns, gospel songs, opera and oratorio. Some of the roles for which he has been selected are: The "Elijah," Melchior in "Amahl and the Night Visitors," baritone solos in

## MC Will Present The Imperials

The Mississippi College Student Body Association and the Lyceum Committee will present The Imperials in concert in A. E. Wood Coliseum in Clinton Monday, Nov. 12, at 7:30 p.m.

The Imperials is a Christian group of nine instrumentalists and vocalists. The style of music ranges from the traditional quartet to contemporary gospel and even the soft rock sound.

The group has been in existence for

over 15 years. Tickets are \$2.50 for students with an ID and \$4.00 general admission, with a special \$3.50 rate for groups of 20 or

Tickets may be obtained from the Office of the Associate Dean of Student Affairs on campus, telephone 924-5131,

Fan Tutte" by Mozart, bass solos in "Amelia Goes to the Ball" by Menotti. Jim is a native of Pine Bluff, Arkan-Tickets to the banquet are available at \$3.50 each, and may be ordered from the Brotherhood Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, Mississippi 39205.

The conference is free of charge. Since the supply of tickets is usually exhausted before the date of the banquet, it is suggested that those interested in attending order their tickets early.

the Brahms "Requiem" and Faure "Requiem," the "Christmas Story" by Ron Nelson, Guglielmo in "Costi

Holiday Inn, 5075 1-35 North, 306,9411, ... Innkeeper - Edna Vaughan

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Sheraton Motor Inn, I-55 North, 982-1044 Innkeeper — Retta Williamson Standard Student Rate (all Sherator No minimum number of rooms needed in order to receive this rate Days Inn, 616 Briarwood Drive, 957-1741 (P. O. Box 12864)

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## Dedication at Gulfshore

The colors pass the memorial for the Merchant Marine Cadet Basic School, which was dedicated Oct. 20 on the campus of Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. Earl Kelly, executive secretarytreasurer for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Frank Simmons, director at Gulfshore, participated on the dedication program. The

anchor and the plaque were dedicated to the memory of the cadets who trained there who lost their lives in service both in war and in peace. The keynote speaker was by Capt. Bennett Dodson, USN (Ret), a former commanding officer of the school who was also commander of the Battleship

## Mississippi Baptist Activities

Nov. 4 Nov. 4-11 Nov. 10

High Attendance Day in Sunday School (SS) Royal Ambassador Emphasis Week (Brotherhood) Royal Ambassador Day, Mississippi College, Clinton, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Brotherhood)

## Mrs. Compere Died In Hall At Ridgecrest

\$21 \$28

In the Oct. 25 Baptist Record an article concerning the death of Mrs. Bob Compere stated that she died while climbing a flight of stairs at Ridge crest. Mrs. Compere's husband, Bob states that this was incorrect, that she was not climbing steps, but was walking down the hall with him toward

He added that she had never previously had an indication of heart trouble and "was having the best time at Ridgecrest she'd ever had there in her life." The two of them went on a mission trip to Rome, Italy, this year to assist Bob and Flora Holifield. The story of their trip was told in a recent issue of the Record.

## Mrs. John F. Carter Dies In Louisiana

Mrs. John F. Carter, 82, wife of John F. Carter, long-time professor at Clarke College, now retired, died Sunday night, Oct. 28, in the hospital at Lake Charles, La., after suffering a

stroke Saturday night, Oct. 27.
The funeral was held at Webb Funeral Home, Newton, Miss., Wed., Oct. , with W. L. Compere, retired president of Clarke College, and Henry Adams, pastor of Calvary Church, Newton, the Carters' pastor, in charge.

Survivors include two sons, John Thomas Carter, Birmingham, Ala. and Henry F. Carter, DeRidder, La., and six grandchildren. Dr. and Mrs. John F. Carter went to

the home of their son, Henry, about a month ago, and Dr. Carter had surgery while in Louisiana. He is 91.

The family requested that in place of flowers contributions be made to the

Carter Scholarship Fund at Clarke

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# pe Captist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

**Editorials** 

## The associations, the Convention . . .

# The same people attend both

October was the month of annual association meetings all across the Southern Baptist Convention. I attended three of them in Mississippi this year, and I was thrilled with the enthusiasm that was to be found in those areas.

Others I have talked to who attended several association meetings reported the same kind of enthusiasm in the areas where they were.

Many associations are reporting significantly increased baptisms. At least two of those that I attended did not have such reports, but the enthusiasm was present which would indicate that there will be changes in that category in very short order.

It was an interesting experience to be a part of these denominational meetings that are closest to the local churches. It was exciting to see the missions operation of the Southern Baptist Convention in motion at this local level where it all begins. I enjoyed it.

The three association meetings that attended were well organized, well planned, well handled, and well at-tended. They were Sharkey-Issaquena, Simpson, and Sunflower. I was glad to have been in all three, and

my vision was broadened because of it. It is time now to turn our thoughts to the state convention. That is the next echelon of denominational cooperation. The concept is just as thrilling as is the association. Instead of the folks who are attending coming from the churches across the county, they are coming from the churches across the state. The people who will be in

attendance will be there for the same reason that they attended the association meetings: they will be seeking ways to further the progress of the churches in their work in the Kingdom

The state convention is just as dependent on the people coming from the churches, all of them, as are the associations. The state convention is not a level above the associations. It is simply another, broader, echelon of cooperation. The churches name the people who attend each. They are not delegates to be weeded out as the size of the meeting gets bigger. The church controls the attendance all the way

If the messengers to the state convention, Nov. 13-15, have not been selected by the churches, then it is

time to do so. It is not a time of meeting of the more sophisticated Baptists in the state or of those whose churches have accomplished the most. It is a time for a gathering from all over the state of the same kind of folks who attended the association meetings.

It is a time of fellowship. It is a time of looking back over the past year to see what has been accomplished. It is a time of looking ahead with plans for the year to come to order to have the Lord's work more effectively represented in the world. It is a time of inspiration, both by the thrilling re-ports that are to be heard from our agencies and from the speakers who will be on hand to challenge us.

Every church needs to have messengers to the convention. Now is the time to select them. - DTM

**Never Give Up** 

to get their way and be able to, inch by

inch, get better and better conditions

Why do the liquor interests continue

# If One Could But Foreses

# **Faces And Places**

# "No Roads"

his travel expenses. Landon and his wife Pat are South-

While Carr was in Honduras he

The Institute building, begun early this year, was not quite finished in August. Construction is slow because of the difficulty of getting supplies into an area where no roads connect with other states or cities and the only con-tact with the world outside is by DC-3 or small boat. Lumber was brought 20 miles downstream and then hauled another mile in an old pick-up. Ministers are trained at the institute.

The Honduran government gave the mission 41 acres, where the Institute is

Carr said he preached at Calquira; Puerta Lempira, Tumtumtara, and Kokota. (The 21 churches and missions of the Miskitos cooperate with the Honduran Baptist Convention.) To get to Calquira, he and Landon rode a boat across a lagoon 1½ hours and upriver 11/2 hours, crossed a swamp, and then walked two hours. Tumtumtara was only two hours away, and Kokota somewhat nearer than that. At one church Carr became a photographer when a pastor asked for a picture. taken of his twin girls.

Last year a hurricane damaged a lot of the churches and pastor's homes among the Miskitos in the state of Gracias a Dios. At Calquira, one church where Carr preached, both church and pastor's home were leveled. He said a large one-room building had since been put up. The pastor's family lives in it and it doubles as a church. Thirty or 40 can meet inside, but others stand outside.

The hurricane that leveled whole villages also leveled many coconut trees, a source of food. "Though these Indians are poor, and nearly always hungry," Carr said, "they are very responsive to the gospel. They are more interested in building churches than in rebuilding their homes, and will walk for miles to carry sheets of zinc on their heads, to cover a church building."

Landon has planted tropical fruits on the Institute grounds, hoping to add to the food supply of his own family, the pastors who study at the Institute, and perhaps teach the Miskitos to grow more varied food for themselves.

"I was impressed with how much

Landon and Pat are doing with so lit-

tle," Carr said. "They need another couple, preferably Spanish-speaking, to teach their daughter Mary and to teach in the Pastors' Institute. "If he had a 36-foot boat to get food

and supplies he could use it to help the Indians learn a trade-lobstering." The Wilkersons are supported by in-

dividual churches in West Virginia, Kentucky, Florida, and Mississippi. Enroute home Carr stopped at La

Ceiba to visit the missionary, Hoyt Roberts, for three days. When he got back to Mississippi he collected a supply of medicines and sent them back to Puerta Lempira by Pat Wilkerson, who was in the States at the time, 1800! Many of Miskites, including some of st

the pastors and their wives and children, are ill with tuberculosis, intestinal parasites, malaria, and amoebic Pat ministers to the sick in her small

Carr said he hopes to return at some time in the future and take a team with him from the Puckett Church. Rufus Vanderford, a Puckett member, has bought Coleman lanterns to send the Miskito Baptists, but the problem is how to get them there? Since the churches don't have electricity, they use lantern light. Also the pastors could use lanterns as study lights.

Carr and his wife grew up in Jackson Street Church, Tupelo. He was graduated from Blue Mountain while he was pastor of the Academy Church for five years. (The church paid his college tuition.) He and his wife, Elaine, who is a nurse and an artist, have two children.

Mrs. Carr went to Barbados this summer to assist in a sewing project. The two have compiled a slide show of mission work in



Honduras and Barbados. Since the Foreign Mission Graded Series is on the Caribbean area, they have invitations to show this at several churches,

including Academy

(Tippah) Macedonia in Lee. While Carr was pastor at Holly Bluff in Yazoo Couty he met Landon and was

invited to Puerta Lempira.

# By Anne Washburn McWilliams

# But Carr Goes

The coconut gringo — that's what the Miskito Indians in Honduras called Jimmy D. Carr, the Puckett pastor, when they smelled his coconut-scented suntan oil. He went to Puerta Lempira last March to help Landon Wilkerson for ten days. The Puckett Church paid

ern Baptists who have been ministering to the isolated Miskitos on the marshy Honduran coast for more than 12 years. During that time at least 2,000 Indians have responded to the invitation to accept Christ.

helped finish pouring the concrete and begin the framework for a new building for the Pastors' Institute, preached in four churches, and taught doctrinal classes to pastors.

located.

# Carr

Book Reviews -

AN OUTLINED STUDY OF EPHE-SIANS, by L. E. Green, 38 pages, single spaced, mimeographed; \$1 at Mississippi Baptist Convention, \$2 by mail; 4507 Fort Street, Pascagoula,

Baptist pastor makes available his outlined study of the January Bible Study book. For 1980 the book is Ephe-

Ephesians is one of the most profound books of the Bible. Its range and depth of thought has challenged and inspired the most powerful and penet-rating minds and hearts of men through the ages. There is no way to explain Ephesians except by the miracle of God's revelation of Christ and the spirit of God, who by inspiration bore along the writer who recorded the

ter, Place and Date of Ephesians; The

People Addressed in Ephesians; and Theme of Ephesians. The titles of the sections of the study

are The Purpose of God Detailed in Eternity; The Purpose of God Advanced through Prayer; The Purpose of God Analyzed in Man's Experience; The Purpose of God, "a mystery" in the Church; The Purpose of God Undergirded with Prayer; The Purpose of God Applied to Life and Living; and

The Purpose of God Opposed by Satan.
The entire book is outlined by section and verse by verse. It is a well-known study outlined among Baptist pastors in Mississippi. The outlined study will be available from the author during the sessions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and before and after the convention by mail.

Frankfort, Ky. (EP) - In a victory for fundamentalist Christian schools the Kentucky Supreme Court has ruled

Simple solution . . .

# Statewide drinking extension proposed

The State Tax Commission has proposed a settlement on the issue of whether or not to increase the hours for serving liquor-by-the-drink in downtown Jackson. The commission came up with a simple solution. It is simply to extend the hours statewide from the present cut-off time of midnight to 2 a.m.

A commission spokesman told the Baptist Record that there is no connection between the extended hours and the request of a Jackson discotheque owner to make his place of business a resort area. The proposal to authorize the extension of hours, however, came after the disco owner served notice that he would appeal the earlier ruling against him for resort area status. And while the status of a resort area allows liquor service for 24 hours, he was interested in going only until 2 a.m. Resort status, of course, would have all lowed him all-night service whenever he decided to keep his place open. He still plans to go through with his demand for a hearing before the Tax Commission on the denial of his request, and this hearing before the Tax Commission on the denial of his request, and this hearing is scheduled for

Reverse the Set-Up In the meantime, the Tax Commission is proposing to reverse the present liquor-by-the-drink set up. Now the cut-off hour is midnight, and cities and communities in wet areas can petition the Tax Commission for extensions until 2 a.m. The new proposal would make the cut-off time 2 a.m., and cities and communities would be able to petition for shorter hours.

Everyone knows, of course, that it would be much harder to back up to midnight from 2 a.m. than it would be to hold the line at midnight.

A Jackson restaurant owner who serves liquor in his establishment, was delighted with the proposal to extend the hours. Among the other "benefits" he mentioned, as he was quoted by the Jackson Daily News on Oct. 27, was that the extension of time would be state. That it would be vital is hard to imagine, but surely it would increase the business of the hospitals across the state. One would hope that those who would be drinking the extra booze between midnight and 2 a.m. would be those who would be able to pay the hospital bills for themselves and the others that they injure.

**Protest Possible** 

The proposal by the Tax Commission was scheduled to go to the office of the secretary of state on about Nov. 1. The proposal will be held for 30 days in order for any protests to be presented. If there are no protests, it will become law. If there is a protest from an interested group or protests from groups, then a hearing will be scheduled to discuss the issue.

Surely there have been inequities in the nature of liquor service in Mississippi. For instance, a cafe near Tupelo is a resort area — the city of Tupelo is not the resort area - it is a cafe. That cafe, by virtue of its resort status, can serve liquor around the clock seven days a week. That is an inequity, but the way to change the wrong is not to establish another wrong.

Would extending the hours statewide for serving liquor be wrong? es. If the nature of the product is such that there have been controls on the use of it, then the loosening of those controls in any way would have to be wrong on the face of it. In fact, it must be said that if there have to be controls on the use of a product, then the product should not be allowed to be produced for general use.

for the sale of their products? It is because they never give up. They continue to come back, time after time. And they know their opposition is going to get tired of continually having to try to hold them off. So they will keep chipping away at the regulations that limit their industry. The only way to combat them is to continue to fight The entire liquor operation in Mis-

sissippi is a farce. If a state is dry, as Mississippi legally is, then there should not be allowed any liquor traffic in it. If it is wet, then the communities should be allowed to exercise a preference for being dry. That is not unfair. If the citizens of a state want it to be dry, it should be dry. For all practical purposes, however, Mississippi is wet, ether or not we like it that way. That is an illustration of the liquor interests' chipping away until they have gained a point. They were able to get a local option set up established in dry Mississippi whereby a community can come out from under the dry status. Now the state is wet in spite of the fact that it has statewide prohibition.

# Letters To The Editor

#### Appreciation for Help

Editor:

We are a very small new congregation located in the Clinch River Valley in the mountains of southwest Virginia. Our church was constituted in July of 1978, and for a year we met for worship in an abandoned old Methodist church building about three miles from town. The church was not accessible during the winter months due to its location on a steep mountain slope and the fact that it could not be heated made it undesirable for our

We prayed daily and fervently that God would meet our need for a building in town where we could be an effective witness and where we could better meet the needs of the people. We were able to purchase a building site and, through the efforts of the Mission Service Corps of our Home Mission Board and the leadership of Mr. Bill Wilson of the M.S.C., we now have a beautiful new building built this summer by volunteer help.

Your state had a part in this and we want to thank the West Point Baptist Church, West Point, Miss. and the In-

The Baptist Record

dian Creek Baptist Church, Laurel, Miss., for coming here at their own expense and using their vacation time they helped build a place of worship for God's glory. We are deeply grateful for their missionary efforts and their love for God's people to have a desire to answer the Macedonian call to "come

over and help us. . ." Blake T. Mullins, Pastor First Baptist Church Dungannon, Va. 24245

#### The Trash of TV

Here is a copy of a letter by some Baptists signed here and sent to CBS, New York.

We thought maybe if The Record saw fit to print it, it might encourage Baptists from other places to express their convictions in a similar way. Robert L. Hardee

Sandersville

CBS, Inc. 51 W. 52d St.

New York, N. Y. 10019

With the showing of "Flesh and Blood," it looks as if you scraped the

bottom of the trash barrel. The old claims of "First Amendment Rights" and the charge of censorship against those who opposed such filthy offerings provide a weak

defense indeed. Apparently it's boldly obvious that morality doesn't concern the networks

— only money. Accordingly, the only effective way to fight TV vulgarity is to quit buying the products of companies that sponsor disgraceful telecasts. Among thousands of others, that's what we intend to do.

The letter had 20 signers. They

J. C. Tucker C. W. Hickson A. Hardee J. C. Hardage H. W. Gray H. T. Strickland **Bob Hickson** Mrs. H. T. Strickland E. E. Walker Jesse McCraney Neylda Temple W. R. Temple G. K. Morgan Robert L. Hardee J. P. Parker Ernest C. Garvin Virgil Wheeler Ellis S. Mahan Josie H. Hardee

Carbon copies were sent to Sen. John Stennis, Sen. Thad Cochran, Rep. Trent Lott, and Rep. G. V. Montgom-

### **Direct Mission Fellowships** Editor:

In response to the Bold Mission Thrust goal to take the Gospel to every person in the world by the turn of the century, local associations have undertaken new measures to try to reach. this projective. The result is exciting and rewarding.

Called Direct Mission Fellowships (DMF); concerned Southern Baptists are seeking to augment the funding of the Cooperative Program to missions causes by sending aid directly to mis-

The concept began in Jones County Association two years ago.

Funding comes from dedicated church members giving a minimum of ten dollars per month over and above their tithe and offering to the local church. The fellowship is able to help many causes, all of which are carefully screened and approved by the entire membership of the DMF.

Some have opposed the program, saying that Cooperative Program gifts would drop. To the contrary, participating churches in Jones Association, and more recently, the Lawrence County Baptist Association, report an increase in gifts through the Cooperative Program. The DMF fosters a sacrificial attitude among the members of the churches. This is the attitude that all Southern Baptists must adopt if the

The DMF is encouraging additional support to established giving methods while spawning new ways to achieve the commission given to us by the Lord. Several mission trips involving

goals of the Bold Mission Thrust are to

be achieved.

local church members have been partially underwritten by the DMF, giving members firsthand experience in pioneer missions activities. The success of the DMF is indicative of the fact that sacrificial giving to missions causes is contagious. Thank

Pastor Jayess Baptist Church Admittedly, I viewed this concept

God for such a contagion.

Mike Mitchell-

with some reservations as I began to contemplate it; but everyone with whom I have talked about it has been enthusiastic in its support. From the begging the purpose of the Coopera-tive Program was to eliminate the multitudinous requests that came from the many areas of work for money to support their causes. The Cooperative Program is a way of handling all of those requests in a practical manner. The concept of Bold Mission Thrust, however, has been to finance missions programs over and above the cooperative missions gifts of the churches. This program, of course, is well within the framework of that concept. - Editor

# Southwestern Sets Campaign

(Continued from Page 1)

mittee at its February meeting. The board also heard the first annual report presented by Dilday since his inauguration as president of South-western in 1978, elected new officers,

approved 22 new courses for the curriculum and heard from SBC President Adrian Rogers. Rogers affirmed his support for Southwestern Seminary and told trus-

tees: "There is not one faculty member here whose theology I would question. I have always been grateful for Southwestern and frequently re-commended students here."

Rogers emphasized his concern for revival among Southern Baptists and called for a "baptism of love and power that will melt us together." Trustees elected Kenneth Chafin,

pastor of South Main Baptist Church in Houston, as chairman of the board for a one-year term.

The proposed \$8 million learning resource center, to be located on the east side of the campus, would accommodate approximately 700,000 volumes and more than 1,000 students when completed. The 77,000 sq. ft. building would house the seminary's main library, the music library, archives and other research resources.

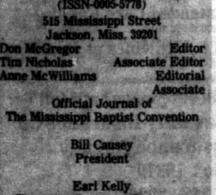
The recommendation included plans to renovate the present Fleming Lib-rary to house the world missions/church growth center, a continuing education center, the seminary's student affairs division, library sup-port services, classrooms and faculty

Miss. 39567. Each year this retired Mississippi

In his introduction, Dr. Green says,

The topics of the introduction are The City of Ephesus: The First Coming of the Gospel to Ephesus, The Wri-

that the state cannot prescribe stan-dards for teachers and textbooks in private and parochial schools.



# Names In The News

Evelyn Redd of Jackson and Senator Thomas William "Billy" Hickman of Brookhaven have been chosen Alum-nus of the Year of Copiah-Lincoln Junior College. Both were recognized during the college's homecoming celebration on Oct. 6. Miss Redd, a native of Lincoln County, is office secretary for the Sunday School Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Formerly she was office secretary, receptionist, for First Church, Jackson, and church secretary for First Church, Brookhaven.

Miss Redd served as president of the Copiah-Lincoln Alumni Association during 1978-79. At First Church, Jackson, she is director of a fifth grade Sunday School Department, an officer in Baptist Women, and member of the Sanctuary Choir.

Senator Hickman is a deacon of First Church, Brookhaven, and is a member and featured soloist of the church choir. He received a B.S. degree from Mississippi State University in agriculture.

Thomas A. Berry resigned as vice president for development at New Orleans Seminary to accept a similar position at Belhaven College, Jackson. He served in the same capacity at Louisiana College before going to the

First Church, Potts Camp recently ordained a new deacon, Billy Edlin, who began a three-active term in October. Arthur Leslie, director of missions, Lafayette-Marshall Association, brought the charge to the deacon and church. Edlin is also chairman of ushers and his wife Ann is church treasurer. Before ordination Edlin served as a yokeman in the church's deacon family ministry plan.

First Church, Potts Camp began its fourth year in the deacon family ministry plan and deacon rotation system Oct. 1. Ronald Hudspeth, chair man of deacons for 1978-79, and the newly elected Brotherhood director, rotated to inactive while Harold Rainey was selected as the new chairman. Alvis K. Cooper is pastor.

Mrs. W. S. (Bud) Redden of Pace Church has resigned as teacher of the Willing Workers' Class after 35 years of service. During this time she has seen Pace Church change from a union church with part-time services to a full-time church. A new building has been built and paid for, and a pastorium erected.

Mrs. Redden went to Pace as a teacher in 1923 and married one of the local citizens on May 26, 1927. "Uncle Bud" and "Miss Clara," as they are known, have two children, Walter S. Redden, Jr. of Jackson, and Mrs.

Louis Dodez of Mesa, Ariz., and two

In retirement Mrs. Redden will be a substitute for the Ladies' Class and play the organ or piano whenever the

"Her enthusiasm for the Lord's work has caused many people to study God's Word and to have a real desire to read and understand it," one class member said.

Kathy and John McNair, missionaries to Spain, may be addressed at Apartado 51, San Sebastian de los Reyes, (Madrid) Spain. They are natives of Mississippi.

Barry Hardy of Parkway Church Jackson, was a participant in the Evangelism Explosion III International Leadership Clinic, held Oct. 19-24 at First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla. A total of 130 ministers, wives, and lay people from nine various denominations attended the clinic, investigating this ministry of evangelism, discipleship and church nurture. Those attending came from

The clinic was led by Mike Carlisle, director of Evangelism Explosion U.S.A. and David Self, minister of evangelism at First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla,

# Retreat Draws 760 Women To Clinton



Laura Fry, Evelyn Christenson, and Ethel McKeithen, at Garaywa

Seven hundred and sixty Baptist Women at their annual retreat in Clinton gathered at Morrison Heights Church Oct. 13 to hear Evelyn Christenson of Minnesota teach her bestselling book, What Happens When Women Pray.

Friday night and Sunday sessions were held at Camp Garaywa, but because of the unusually large attendance expected on Saturday, that part of the meeting was moved to the church. One hundred seventy-five registered to spend the weekend at the

Guest speakers for the retreat followed the theme, "Baptist Women Making Life-Changing Commit-

Mrs. Sarah Taylor, wife of the pastor at Arlington Heights Church, Pascagoula, led the singing.

Missionary speakers were Lou Ann Lee, France, and Martha Haggan, Philadelphia, missionary to the Choc-

Laura Ery national evangelism consultant for women, Home Mission Board, SBC, told the group, "If Christ lives in you, and you at the same time

continue to try to have your own way, you will be a split personality. Let Him have His way. Make a life-changing commitment to lifestyle evangelism. Make yourself available for God's use so that He may win people to Christ through you."

Evelyn Christenson on Friday evening told of events in her life that led to her becoming an author and leader of prayer seminars.

She said it all began in 1967 when she was asked to conduct an experiment the next year as a part of the Crusade of the Americas. As a pastor's wife in Rockford, Ill. she was asked to take the. women of her church and find out in six months' time exactly what did happen when women pray.

At first she felt like saying no, but she read in her Bible, "Behold, I have set before you an open door." As she prayed about this, she made a commitment. "All right, Lord, I'll do it."

The experiment brought some amazing results recounted in the book. Ethel McKeithen consultant We man's Missionary Union, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board directed the

Il Green has resigned Cambridge Church, Gautier, where he was pastor 5½ years. He began a new pastorate

Oct. 7 at Temple Church, Petal. He is graduate of Jones County Junior College, USM, and New Orleans Seminary, and is married to the former Emily Jo Gurley of Iuka.

Joe Clark has accepted the call as minister of music and youth for Temple Church, Petal. He goes there from First Church, Brooklyn.

Bill McIlwain has resigned as minister of education and outreach at Calvary, Jackson, to accept a position with Second Ponce de Leon Church, Atlanta, Ga.

## Pastor Dies At Yazoo City

Robert Young Gerrard died Oct. 6 at Kings Daughters Hospital in Yazoo City. He had served as pastor at Ogden (Yazoo), Center Terrace, Canton, Utica, and Eden, in Mississippi, and at Liberty, Covington, Tenn., and First Southern Baptist, Mill Valley, Calif.

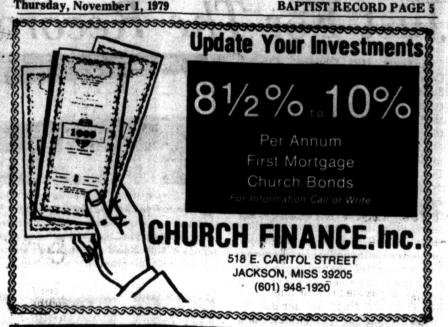
Funeral services were held Oct. 28 at Stricklin-King Funeral Chapel, Yazoo City. James Yates, pastor of First Church, Yazoo City, officiated, assisted by Roy Self and Robert Martin. Mrs. Myrna Loy Hedgepeth of Jackson sang "The Lord's Prayer" and "My

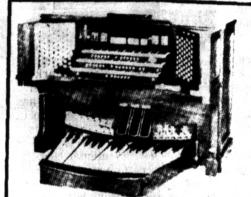
Survivors include his wife, Mary Lou Gerrard of Yazoo City; a son, Robert Young Gerrard, Jr., Jackson; a daughter, Nancy Russell, Luling, La.; one brother, Hayden Gerrard, Clarksdale: one sister. Myra Gerrard Dawson, Yazoo City; and two grandchildren.

#### Revival Dates

First Church, Crystal Springs: Nov. 4-7; Earl Kelly, evangelist; James Beasley, music director; services -10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m., Nov. 4 and 7:30 each night; Wayne McCullar, pastor.

Woolmarket Church, Biloxi; Oct. 28 -Nov. 2 with a high attendance goal of 212 in Sunday School; James Whittington, pastor of Gulf Gardens Rogers, minister of music, Mount Vernon Church, Jasper, Al., music evangelist.





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. . a monumental achievement and a stellar service to the English speaking world." — Dr. Carl F.H. Henry, World Vision International

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N.N. The beginning of a new tradition. sutets plans to go through with his de- the business of the bo

# THE VILLAGE VIEW

Baptist Children's Village

FOR ALL THE BLESSINGS OF THE YEAR, The Children's Village is grateful! Those of us who work, live, move and have our being among dis-tressed and dis-

placed children who constitute the Village "family," are especially thankful to and for you - the private homes and private families of Mississippi

primarily because we are certain and confident of your dependability.

The tragic circumstances which unsettle and divide natural families and dispatch upset boys and girls to The Village for care; the mistaken, selfish inituences of society which threaten every family and entice children into unstable, sinful life-styles; the frightening pace of living with which Christian Child Care must cope and even compete; the unpredictable increases in the financial costs of living which continue to threaten our very existence - for these and so many other reasons, your Village staff is frequently tempted by feelings of insecurity - almost by fear!

NOW: As the HOLIDAY SEASON, particularly Thanksgiving approaches, we want you to know that we appreciate your friendship for us and your generosity with us throughout the year. Most of all, we thank God for the security which your dependability as friends and supporters brings to us. We salute you this Thanksgiving, and pray for you the blessings of home and family which your concern for and unselfishness with the little ones at the Village of children has earned for you. Sincerely,

> PAUL N. NUNNERY **Executive Director**

#### "Christmas Sparkles at The Village"

For several weeks, by letter and by telephone, many have already asked, "What are the dates for 'Christmas Sparkles' this year? I need to make my plans." Therefore, we give our friends this brief, advance notice: The popular choral show will be presented this year by The Village's Department of

Music on Friday evening, December 7 and again on Saturday evening, December 8. Both performances will be presented in Hester Activities Building on our Jackson campus and will begin at 7:30 o'clock P.M. Letters and posters giving more detailed information will be released within the next two weeks. Perhaps this advance word will be helpful.

## Fall Recreational Activities In Progress — **Jackson Campus:**

The Village undertakes to offer supervised recreational programs for its children, including structured team sports engaging in league competition appropriate to the season, throughout the year. Particularly on the Village's Jackson campus, the Village enjoys many opportunities to arrange for its teams to compete with Baptist churches and similar groups in the Hinds-Madison Association area. Coach Hubert Monk of the Village staff, who, along with Mrs. Ruth Glaze and Miss Sharon Stone supervises recreation and music in the restructured Department of Activities on the Jackson campus has announced the composition of soccer teams and basketball teams for boys and girls of all ages. League soccer competition, involving Village teams and others in the leagues in which the Village competes may be observed in colorful and vigorous play on the athletic fields adjacent to Hester Activities Building on the Jackson campus virtually every day.



**Nowlin** 

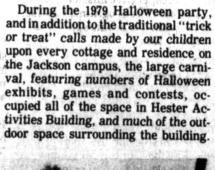
## Presenting Our Staff

Claire Nowlin, left, ACSW, Director, Department of Social Service, eight years of service.

Kathy Saucier, right, Social

## Halloween Happenings:

On the evening of Octubal, the Jackson campus of The Children's Village featured its traditional schedule of Halloween fun for the children. In recent years, The Village's Halloween Carnival on the Jackson campus has become so interesting and attractive, until it is quite common for many people who live in the Jackson area to drive to our campus simply to observe Village children having fun while participating in a completely safe and sane observation of an American custom which is very appealing to young





Soccer at The Children's Village



Saucier

Caseworker, Jackson campus, three years of service.

Every boy and girl and every staff

member on the Jackson campus participated. The only feature which was omitted this year was bobbing for apples, because we found apples too expensive this year to use for such purposes. The traditional cake-walk, using colorfully decorated cakes baked by the various cottages; a fortune teller's booth; an

opportunity to "dump" staff members in water by tossing balls at a target; and numbers of other games and contests of the season, each affording prizes, were enjoyed. The newest feature was a Halloween costume contest. Adult staff members, as well as children and young people were encouraged to make and develop innovative Halloween costumes, and separate prizes for the best costume for the various age groups were awarded.

An elaborate "spook house" was constructed by the Activities staff with the assistance of the older young people on our Jackson campus who staffed the house to the delight of the younger children who pretended to be frightened, but insisted upon making the journey. As a reward for their hard work and participation, the oldest teen-agers were carried into the metropolitan Jackson area to a commercially operated "house of horror" at the conclusion of the campus carnival. In accord with custom, the entire occasion was completely financed by the fees and contributions of Village children and staff who participated in this unusual evening of fun, under completely safe and carefully guarded conditions on a right which was the conditions on a right which was the conditions on a right which was the conditions of the conditio conditions on a night which was attrac-tive for them but could have been potentially dangerous, had they left the campus for such activities.

## Christmas Holidays

So many friends of Village children are interested, each year, in the possibility of having one or more young people into their private homes for a Christmas visit, and we are grateful. The custom of arranging holiday visits for our boys and girls into private homes was originated in order to afford these children an opportunity to experience relationships in a real, private home at a significant season of the year, and in order to emphasize the strengths of family and home at Christmas. Our holiday visiting is not intended as a medium through which Village children may be "showered" with material gifts at Christmas. We always urge our holiday hosts to simply follow the minimum customs of their homes in the matter of Christmas presents during these visits.

Mrs. Claire Nowlin, Director of the Village's Department of Social Service has announced the beginning and ending dates of the Christmas holiday for this year and has reminded those who are interested in these dates that it is not too early to begin requests. As usual, we ask that these requests be put in writing, in the form of a letter to Mrs. Nowlin at The Baptist Children's Village, Box 11308, Jackson, 39213, and that the request be accompanied or followed by the recommendation of a local Baptist pastor in the cases of those friends who have never had a Village child in their homes for a previous visit. The younger children are always requested first, but within our limitations, and with due respect for the rights and opportunities of natural families and regular sponsors, Mrs. Nowlin and her staff try to assign children by age and sex in accord with written requests, and in the order in

which they are received. In 1979, both for the Jackson Campus and the Farrow Manor Campus in Tate County, the holiday will begin on Friday, December 21 and end on Saturday, January 5. Children who live in our New Albany home will observe a slightly different holiday period. It is suggested that those interested in children who live in the New Albany home communicate directly with Mrs. Nowlin about the dates for the New Albany children. All assignments for the holiday visiting period will be made by Mrs. Nowlin from her office in Jackson for children at all 3 locations, and prospective hosts should remember that we must ask that they furnish transportation for these visits. If you are interested, we would be pleased to hear from you, and we would again suggest that you make your request at an early date.



Joe Hofler, a Village student in printing explains a brochure he has produced to Executive Director Nunnery.

## **Vocational Training** at The Village:

As a part of its continuing effort to meet the differing needs of different young people in every aspect of its ministry, The Children's Village has, for a number of years, arranged vocational training opportunities in the trades for older teenagers who will not pursue academic careers. Through Hinds Junior College, through the Vocational School provided by Clinton Municipal Separate School District and through other resources available in the metropolitan Jackson area, many young people have been able to acquire training for stable and productive working opportunities in the trades and vocations while in residence on the Jackson campus of the Village. Village wards on the Farrow Manor Campus and in New Albany have similar opportunities at schools in those areas.

Joe Hofler, a 17-year-old Village lad is one of those currently taking advantage of these opportunities by training himself in the printing trade at Hinds Junior College under arrangements made by The Village. Recently, as a part of one of his classroom assignments, Joe edited and produced in quantity an attractive brochure containing information about The Baptist Children's Village and its ministry. The Village administration reports that Joe's work is not only attractive, but will serve as a useful informational piece. Copies of the brochure will be available in the Village booth at Mis-sissippi Baptist Convention. Mrs. Annette Hitt, the Village's Director of Christian Education, has stated that she will be using the product of Joe's work at other Baptist organizational meetings in different areas of the state throughout the year.

# Just For The Record

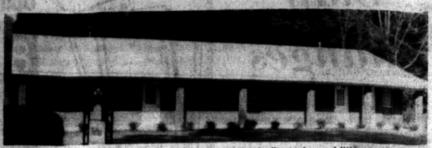
Pleasant Hill Church, Clarke County, held a GA recognition service Sunday night, Sept. 30. As each girl received badge, collar, pin, or jacket, she was presented a long stemmed red rose, tied with a yellow ribbon. Each girl was dressed in a red vest and skirt made by the GA leader, Vida Kennedy.

During the reception after the ceremony, Vida was presented an arrangement of silk roses and dried flowers, plus a quilt top with names of the 27 girls, the name of the WMU director and the name of the pastor printed on the individual quilt squares. This was a gift of love and appreciation from the girls for her work with them during 1978-79.

The Acteens and GAs of the Wanilla Church celebrated Christmas in August. They raised \$87.00 through donations and a cake sale.

Fairhaven Church, Olive Branch, held Old-Time Religion Day on Oct. 28. The BSU Choir from Blue Mountain College presented special music in the morning service, and during the afternoon presented a contemporary Christian musical

Recognition was given to the oldest person present, the couple married the longest, and the family with most members present. Lunch was served at the church. B. Ray Bryant is the



BOLTON CHURCH, Wayne Burkes, pastor, has dedicated an addition to the building, named Ross Annex. Mr. and Mrs. Joe B. Ross and their family donated the lard for the annex, plus parking area. The Rosses, with their twin daughters, were charter members of Bolton Church when it was organized Sept. 15, 1937. After the dedication service a large crowd ate lunch and attended fellowship at the new annex. Then a special music program was presented.



WM. GARY SMITH, pastor of First Church, Carriere, was recently given a bus by a person who wishes to remain anonymous. The renovated bus has wall to wall carpet, and is equipped with CB radio, eight track stereo, FM-AM radio, television, and mobile telephone, which is capable of both receiving and transmitting telephone messages. Those taking part in the presentation were, L-R: Danny Roy Johnson. minister of music, and Deacons: Rance Cuevas, Smith, Ralph Dawsey, George Harvey, Paul Monroe, Travis Palmer, and Charles Hendrix.

House, Bus

day, Oct. 14.

from the church.

tor's home in the afternoon.

project of the deacons.

Paul Church, near Charleston, dedi-

A. M. "Sonny" Moore III, pastor of

First, Ruleville, and a former pastor

at Paul, was guest speaker. Deacon

Norris Rutledge led in the noteburning

ceremony for the house, assisted by Deacons Leon Kennedy and James H.

Rutledge, and by Pastor Joe Young. The three bedroom brick house with

two full baths and living area with both

living room and den was constructed in 1972 at a cost of \$25,000. It is located

on one acre of property one-half mile

An open house was held at the pas-

The bus, which was bought from the

county schools in July, has been pro-

viding transportation for an average

of 20 children several times a week for

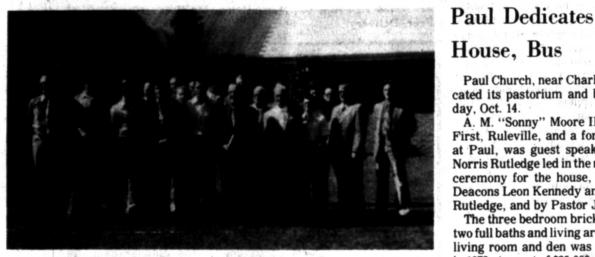
church activities. The bus ministry is a

Since the church is now debt-free,

the congregation has increased its

Cooperative Program giving from 8%

cated its pastorium and bus on Sun-



Olive Church, Pearl River County, near Lumberton has added a west wing. Sunday, Oct. 7, this new wing was dedicated. The pastor, Dennis Allen, presented the keys of the building to the trustees, including Ward Hurt, Hollis Byrd, and Bill Davis. Byrus Hurt, Sunday School director, and Glenn Corley, Church Training director, made speeches in acceptance of the keys. Charles Alford read the Scripture, Philippians 4:4 and Colossians 3:15-17. Bill Davis led the dedication prayer. Mickey Robertson, \ music minister, sang "Bless This House." Ed Jenkins of Baton Rouge, La. preached the dedication sermon. Program personalities are pictured in front of new wing.

The new addition includes pastor's study, two Sunday School rooms, a nursery. and a library. All are carpeted. Also bathroom facilities were added, plus central cooling and heating

The structure was built at a cost of around \$2500 paid by the church plus several thousand in funds donated by others. The building was dedicated to God, debt free, in memory of the late Grady Brown.

# Homecomings

Straight Bayou Church, Sharkey County, is making plans for Harvest Day and homecoming, Nov. 4. Bob Smith, pastor of Lake Washington Church, will preach at the morning service, and Donald Moore of Aberdeen will direct the music. Also, Moore will present a program of gospel music at the afternoon service.

A covered dish luncheon will be served at 12:15. Sunday School begins at 10, morning worship at 11, and the afternoon service at 1:30. There will be no evening service. A Harvest Day Offering will be taken during the morning worship hour. Harold Jones is the

Chunky Church homecoming Nov. 4 will include Sunday School at 9:45; morning worship at 11, C.C. Cornelius, speaker; covered dish dinner at 12; singing at 1:30 p.m. under direction of Mrs. Marguerite McGee, with special guest Jimmy Crane; Church Training

(Marion County) observed homecom-H. C. Bailey is pastor.

## at 6; evening worship at 7. Curtis L. Guess is pastor. Holly Springs Church, Foxworth, ing Sunday, Oct. 21.

# Give Me Children Or Else I Die

By James E. Pugh, Jr., Pastor, Union Church, Meridian

Genesis 30:1 'And when Rachel saw that she bare Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister and said unto Jacob, 'Give me children, or else I die'.'

A recurring Biblical theme is that of a barren wife who cries unto God; the Lord answers and a child is born. Much is made of the shame of barrenness and of an adversary who mocks that barren womb. We find this in the account of Joseph's birth, of Samuel's, of Isaac's and of others.

One of the most marvelous parallels in God's Word is that of the physical and spiritual births. How wonderfully alike they are. A physical birth involves the months of pregnancy, when the mother carries the child close to her heart, followed by hours, perhaps days of labor to bring it into the world. Spiritual births come as the church, Christ's bride, spends time with God, seasons of prayer with the burden of the lost on

their hearts and soul-travail, agonizing prayer labor to bring them forth.

Revival is simply the Bride preparing herself for child bearing; being cleansed and made pure, becoming willing before God and having the vehement desire for children as did Rachel when she cried, "Give me children or I die."

If we are to use genuine conversions in our churches, we must not be satisfied with anything less. We need to remember that there is no easy way, no shortcuts, nor instant babies. Hannah's husband, grieved because she wept and would not eat, gave her gifts and said, "Am I not better to thee than ten sons?", but she would not be comforted without a child. New organs, steeples, carpets, crowds, or offerings will never satisfy the church that wants to produce children for the

While the Devil mocks our barrenness, we must come to Christ, red-eyed and broken-hearted, crying, "Give me children or else I die." When our altars are empty, we must allow nothing but new births to suffice, for our God is not satisfied when the crib is empty.

# Tupelo Layman Receives "Golden Deeds Award"

The Exchange Club of Greater Tupelo has presented "The Book of Golden Deeds Award" to L. D. Hancock. The award is presented annually to a local citizen who has contributed to the betterment of life for those less fortunate. Hancock has helped his fellowmen through support of local churches, medical centers, various state colleges, and the Agricultural Missions Foundation.

In 1976 he and Mrs. Hancock set up the L. D. Hancock Foundation, the income to go to missions work, including the development of agriculture in developing countries largely through the Agricultural Missions Foundation.

Bob Hamblin, Hancock's pastor at Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, said that the layman's "influence in our church has been to teach people that it is a blessing to honor God with what He has given you.'

During the awards program various guests told Hancock's rags to riches story. In 1934 he began business with a few dollars and a used Chevrolet. Then he would wholesale to retail stores, mostly small groceries. Later he employed people in his warehouse, until his business grew from about 20 local employees to about 150 locally and over 3,000 nationwide. There are

more than 200 Hancock fabric stores in the country.

Several years ago Lucky Stores bought Hancock's. At that time Hancock and his long-standing employees and associates became millionaires or multi-millionaires.

Hancock's pastor and a former pastor, Winford Moore, now of Amarillo, Texas, point out that he has never failed to share his success with his fellow man locally and throughout the

Abe Lincoln was not a handsome man by Hollywood standards. Still, he could joke about his homeliness. Once, in a debate a rival called him "two-

Lincoln turned to the crowd and said, "I leave it to my audience. If I had two faces, would I be wearing this

The man, who was wildly enthusiastic about his vacation trip, kept driving along at a steady clip. Finally, his wife consulted the road map and concluded that they were lost.

"Who cares?" said the man. "We're making great time."



Mr. and Mrs. Hancock and Bob Hamblin

## to 11% of budget receipts. thousand in funds donate..., others. Ene building was dedicated. Faches ares Life and Work Lesson

# God With A Plan

By W. Thomas Baddley First Church, Brandon Genesis 12:1-18:33; 21:1-7; 22:1-28:22

Last week's lesson dealt with the "beginnings." The lesson for this week deals with "continuations." God did not just get things started and then hope for the best. Instead, he dealt with mankind often through chosen individuals. Not only did God use these men as spokesmen, but he made promises to these men of his continuing, sustaining, guiding power. The Hebrews saw themselves as God's chosen people in the process of His mighty acts in history. Through the patriarchs God formed a nation whose purpose was to reflect the light of revelation to all people.

I. God's Promise To Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3)

The early chapters of Genesis are filled with names of people, few of which we recognize because they were not significant individuals. After Adam and his immediate descendants, we come to Noah, the righteous man in the midst of a decadent world. Through Noah God started over with a new people. Soon, however, the influence of Satan and the effects of sin became overwhelmingly apparent. The confusion of languages at the Tower of Babel isn't characterized by any one individual, but by the masses of people

seeking their own will. As we turn to the 12th chapter of Genesis, however, a new person takes on a significant role. Here God speaks to a man directly with instructions. Abraham is the beginning figure in the history of God's chosen people. It is from this point, from this people, from this person that God moves and works toward the ultimate revelation in

The words spoken to Abraham were a call and a promise. The call was to accept by faith the leadership of God. The element of faith had to be exercised for there was no specific detail given as to destination. All Abraham had was the knowledge of who the guide was to be. He was called to leave all friends, family, and encumbering possessions. Hebrews 11:8 reports that by faith . . . he went out, not knowing

where he went." The promise to Abraham is taught in the Jewish Talmud (elaboration of Jewish law) as being seven-fold.

1. He would be the father of a great nation, indicating not just people but a territorial base as well. Inasmuch as Abraham was already 75 years old and Sarah but ten years younger, and thus far barren, it did require great faith on his part. 2. He would be blessed of God in his

own lifetime. He would receive both protection from harm and would receive God's gift beyond his wildest imagination. 3. His name would be made great. If he had refused the call, his name, like

remain just another in the long lists of generations past. 4. He would be a blessing to others. Not only would he be the recipient of God's blessings, but also he received the responsibility of being the receptacle through which blessings were pas-

so many others in Scripture, would

sed by God to others. 5. God would bless those who received him. As God's chosen representatives, receiving Abraham was a symbol of a man's response to God.

6. Those who cursed (degraded or despised) Abraham would receive the same from God. Like No. 5, as the representative of God, to reject Abraham

was to reject God. 7. Abraham's ministry would be a blessing to others. His greatest blessings would be spiritual and he was to share these with others, too.

The promise of God to Abraham was not conditional, but an assured covenant of grace which found its fulfillment in Jesus. Abraham responded in faith and God's work and will with a chosen people had its earthly beginning point. II. God's Promise Continued Through

Isaac (Genesis 22:15-18)

We know Isaac better for his relationship as the son of Abraham and as the father of Jacob and Esau than for any great act. Isaac was principally a man of peace and as such there is not a lot of drama focusing in on Isaac in the leading role.

As the son of Abraham, he played a significant role in God's continuing plan for the Hebrews. Most of Abraham's doubts centered around an "heir." When Isaac was finally born to Abraham and Sarah, the problem was seemingly solved. Then God "tested" or "perfected" Abraham's faith by calling for him to sacrifice this precious, long-awaited son. The Canaan-

ites, in whose midst Abraham lived, sacrificed their children as an evidence of their devotion to the God Molech. Did Abraham love his God, Jehovah, as much as they loved theirs? God knew that he would not allow Isaac to be harmed and that a substitute sacrifice would be provided. but Abraham didn't.

Putting God first, Abraham proceeded even to the point of raising the knife and beginning the downward thrust, but the angel of the Lord stopped his hand. Clyde Francisco, in the Genesis volume of BROADMAN BIBLE COMMENTARY, says, "What God would not let an earthly father do. he would do himself." A substitute was there, a ram caught in a thicket, and a sacrifice to God was made. Later we know, even with the pleadings from Jesus, no other was acceptable, and God's own Son, Jesus, was the sacrifice for our sins.

In conjunction with the event, God reaffirmed his promise to Abraham. In Genesis 16:3-5, we read of Jehovah's renewal of these promises to Isaac. Isaac is a seemingly unimportant link between Abraham and Jacob. Remember, however, that if the link is broken, the whole chain is broken. III. God's Promise Reaffirmed To

Jacob (Genesis 28:10-15)

The story of Jacob and Esau is a favorite, often repeated in our children's Bible story sessions. The trickery of Jacob and his mother succeeded in obtaining the birthright and the blessing, but it also signaled the beginning of a fear-filled journey seeking to escape the wrath and revenge of the wronged brother.

The Scriptures tell us that Jacob was the "chosen" brother to carry on the leadership and promise to Abraham. The lack of faith and impatience exhibited by Jacob and his mother surely resembles something out of our generation. Jacob represents the secular man bent on succeeding at all cost. His life portrays mankind's struggles with a sinful nature and with God that were a part of the history of the history of Israel. Through this unlikely vessel the promises of God were reaffirmed and continued.

# Uniform Lesson

# Christ's Authority In The New Community

By Ed North, First, Quitman Ephesians 1:1-23

The focal passage specified in your quarterly is an unfortunate editorial limitation of the subject under study. In order to fully comprehend the authority of Christ in the church one must consider all of chapter one. The chapter naturally divides itself into a doxology (1-14) and a prayer (15-23). Clearly, then verse 11 comes right in the thick of some very significant statements, and is hardly a beginning

For our purposes, we will examine the salient points of the entire chapter, with a grip on the theme of Christ's authority. The doxology roots his authority in God's master plan of salvation, and the prayer expresses his authority in heaven and earth, with special reference to the church.

I. The Doxology (vv. 1-14) Following a typical Pauline salutation (vv. 1-2), the apostle launches into a doxology which in reality is one of the earliest passages about the Holy Trinity. The phrase, "to the praise of his glory" occurs in verses 6, 12, and 14, so there can be no doubt about the doxology. The Father is featured in verses 3-5, the Son in 6-12, and the Holy Spirit in 13-14, so there can be no doubt about

the trinitarian implications. The key statement in this passage is found in verses 9-10. God has had a secret (mystery), but now, wonder of wonders, He has chosen to make it known. The revealed mystery is that God has a "stewardship" or "administration" (better than "dispensation") suitable for the final, closing age of history. In this Messianic Age, stretching from the first coming to the second coming of our Lord, God is going to "gather together in one all things in Christ." This is God's master

plan of salvation. It is rooted in the loving initiative of the Father. "He chose us in him before the foundation of the world. . . " (v. 4). "He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to himself, according to the kind intention of his will" (v. 5).

The concepts of election and predes-tination have been taken to diabolical extremes. The notions that men are arbitrarily chosen for either heaven or hell, and that they have no say in the matter, is foreign to the Scriptures. Predestination is based on God's foreknowledge of what man's response to Christ will be. God is not limited by time and space. He dwells always in the Eternal Now. All things are immediately known to Him. His choice is based on our choice.

However, election and predestination primarily emphasize God's initiative in the salvation process. God knew that man would sin, and "before the foundation of the world" He laid the plans for man's redemption. He sought us even when we turned away from Him (cf. Gen. 3:9-10). God takes the initiative.

God's master plan is fulfilled in Christ's redemptive work upon the cross (vv. 7-8). In an act of amazing grace Christ bore our sins upon the tree. The demands of righteousness were satisfied, and the stain of sin was cleansed. Salvation became a reality.

The plan results in a new community of believers (vv. 11-13a). The phrase, "we have obtained an inheritance." in verse 11 should read "we were made a heritage." The emphasis is not upon what we receive from God, but upon belonging to God. Believers are His special people. God's new people come from the Jews "who first trusted in Christ," (v. 12) and from the Gentiles who respond to "the word of truth" (v.

God's plan of salvation is guaranteed by the Holy Spirit. The believer is "sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise," indicating God's ownership and providential protection. The Holy Spirit is "the earnest of our inheritance." All of my life I have heard of earnest money. It means the downpayment a person makes as the guarantee that he will pay the full price. The Holy Spirit within us is the guarantee that we will receive the full benefits of redemption, even the glories of heaven.

God, then, has created a new community. The unity of Jew and Gentile in Christ is the realization of the "gathering all things together" process. Christ has the sole right to authority in the fellowship of believers

because of the glorious salvation we have in Him alone.

II. The Prayer (vv. 15-23) Paul's prayer for the Christians in Asia Minor is for their spiritual enlightenment (vv. 17-18) and spiritual energy (vv. 19-20). He prays that their personal knowledge of God will deepen, and that their inner beings, having once been enlightened, will continue in a state of illumination. He prays that the same divine power which raised Jesus from the dead, seated Him at God's right hand, and established his dominion will work 🐞

mightily in the life of the believer. Finally, P. Il acknowledges the total Lordship of Christ. He has authority over all "spiritual beings" (v. 21). The various titles listed reflect supernatural beings common to the belief systems of Paul's day. Whatever the identity of the "powers that be," Christ is superior to them all. He has authority over the universe (v. 22). Potentially "all things" are under his dominion. Actually they will be under Him in the fullest sense when this age is consummated. He has authority over the church (vv. 22-23).

When Christ ascended to the right hand of the Father, He left behind a body. The church is his body, with "the fullness of him" in it. Just as my body contains all of me there is, so Christ is fully in his body, the church.

The church is not a ghost or disem-bodied phantom; it always has a body, a definable identity. That identity is to be found in the local church. The body of Christ can be best understood in terms of the visible, organized, functioning, local church. The man who has been born again by the grace of God will understand this New Testament concept, and will want to be a part of a local church.

Christ is the head of the body. The church is the body of Christ, and not a body of Christians. Understood as a body of Christians the church becomes a democracy directed by the will of the majority. Understood as the body of Christ the church becomes a theocracy directed only by the will of Him who is the head. By the very nature of the church, Christ is the authority in the New Community of God's special